


[Subscriber Services](#)
PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS
[Subscriber Services](#)

philly.com
THE REGION'S HOME PAGE



Current: 46°
Severe Weather

[Complete Forecast](#)

Want
time a



Your online degree
is just a click away.

CLICK HERE
LEARN MO

Search ☒ Recent News ☐ Archives ☐ Web for

Welcome
[My Classifieds](#) | [My A](#)

Wednes

Philly.com

[Back to Home >](#)

[Today's Inquirer](#)

[Today's Daily News](#)

[email this](#)

Posted on Wed, Feb. 09, 2005

Editorial | Federal Spending

Wrong choices

Let's start with some of the good ideas in President Bush's proposed budget.

After four years of out-of-control spending in Washington, and a deficit of \$427 billion, cuts must t somewhere. Bush's goal of holding down overall spending in fiscal year 2006, which begins Oct. necessary as it will be painful. And some of his proposed spending cuts make a great deal of sen

Agriculture subsidies, for example, would be trimmed by \$5.7 billion over the next 10 years. If any should be more aggressive here. It would be a small budget victory, after the hugely expensive fa Congress approved in 2002.

Even with a proposed 4.8 percent increase for the Pentagon (not including spending on Iraq), the scale back some military programs. Missile defense and the B-2 stealth bomber would be cut; the budget for buying weapons would be reduced by \$100 million (to a mere \$78 billion).

About one-third of Bush's cuts are in the Education Department. While overall education funding i Bush may be right to propose eliminating, for example, the \$225 million Even Start literacy progr independent studies have concluded doesn't work well.

Among the President's relatively few proposed increases for social programs, a 45 percent hike fr help low-income students pay for college, is needed. And the nutrition program for low-income m children, known as WIC, would increase by \$335 million.

Unfortunately, that's about the extent of the good news in this proposed budget. Bush's repeated with a 40 percent increase on military spending in the last four years, have contributed to deep de require stinginess far beyond his second term. But the President, in his new spending plan, tries t beginnings of fiscal discipline at the expense of people who can least afford that austerity.

The plan would reduce funding for Medicaid, which provides health care for the poor, by \$45 billic The number of poor people in America has increased for three straight years, and 45 million peop without health insurance. But Bush's budget would cut food-stamp benefits for up to 300,000 peo low-income families. Veterans would have higher co-pays and user fees for health care.

This budget would cut money for after-school programs that are essential to reducing crime. Sen.

News

Sports

Entertainment

Business

PhillyWomen

Obituaries

Home

Health

Travel

Education

ONLINE EXTRAS

Archives

Maps & Directions

Newsletters

Traffic Reports

Weather

Yellow Pages

Discussion Boards

Freebies

RSS

Special sections

Newspaper ads online**SITE SERVICES**[Help](#)[Feedback](#)[Online store](#)[Photo reprints](#)[Advertise](#)[Subscribe/Services](#)**PARTNERS**

- NBC10.com
- Bucks Midweek
- Montco Midweek
- Northeast Times
- Taste of Phila.
- Franklin Institute
- Homes and Living
- Beach and Bay Homes
- Active Adult Housing
- My Wedding

N.J.) estimated those cuts would affect about 31,000 children in New Jersey alone. All federal special vocational education, \$1.2 billion, would be eliminated or redirected to other programs.

The President envisions spending cuts like these, but would extend his tax cuts that have benefited Americans disproportionately. Budget choices are moral questions, and this choice is wanting.

Congress and the President cannot defend such decisions, given their fondness for promoting corporations such as in the law that Bush signed last October. It granted about \$140 billion over 10 years in new corporations, from Home Depot to shipbuilder/defense contractor Northrop Grumman to tobacco companies. How can the nation afford to subsidize small Hollywood studios to the tune of \$336 million if we can't afford food stamps for 300,000 families?

For all the professed austerity in Bush's budget, it still does not lower the deficit. It would add nearly \$1 trillion over the next five years, not counting military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Nor does it count Bush's proposal to partially privatize Social Security, which is estimated to cost \$750 billion over 75 years.

More fundamentally, this budget is an attempt to shift the funding burden for health care and other social programs to state and local governments. The President's new budget is a warning that the federal government is not committed to Americans who truly need help. That's exactly where four consecutive years of tax cuts have led us.



SUBSCRIBE TODAY
 Home delivery now available
 in the city and near suburbs.

 [email this](#)
Philly Top Jobs

- **Cololith Corp**
PRINTING
 - **National**
Refrigeration &
Air Conditioning
Project Engineer
 - **Confidential**
SOUS CHEF
 - **Roster**
Administrative Asst
- Securities
 - **John Kennedy**
Ford
Automotive
Technician
 - **DOMINO'S PIZZA**
DRIVERS
- [All Top Jobs »](#)

Ads by Google**[Moving to/in Philadelphia](#)**

Connect/transfer Philadelphia Utilities Online. Phone, Cable, etc
www.PhillyMove.com

[Apartment Bulletin Board](#)

Rental, apartment, sublet - find one or post your own for Free!
www.flatster.net

[New Jersey Apartments](#)

Luxury Apartment Home Rentals in New Jersey
www.avalonruneast2.com



© 2005 The Inquirer
All rights reserved.
Reprint permission granted

The Inquirer | Daily News | Sports | Entertainment | Shop Local | Classifieds
About Philly.com | About the Real Cities Network | Terms of Use & Privacy Statement | About K
Copyright